## (19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 1 September 2005 (01.09.2005)

**PCT** 

## (10) International Publication Number WO 2005/080298 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: 53/00, C07C 45/63, C07F 7/18
- C07B 39/00,
- (21) International Application Number:

PCT/DK2005/000094

- (22) International Filing Date: 11 February 2005 (11.02.2005)
- (25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

PA

PA

PA

| 2004 00252 | 19 February 2004 (19.02.2004) | DK |
|------------|-------------------------------|----|
| 2004 00857 | 1 June 2004 (01.06.2004)      | DK |
| 2004 01960 | 20 December 2004 (20.12.2004) | DK |
| 2005 00047 | 11 January 2005 (11 01 2005)  | DK |

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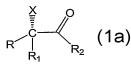
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

## Published:

with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

## (54) Title: CATALYTIC ASYMMETRIC SYNTHESIS OF OPTICALLY ACTIVE $\alpha$ -HALO-CARBONYL COMPOUNDS



$$\begin{array}{c}
X \\
C \\
R_2
\end{array}$$
(1b)

(57) Abstract: A process for the catalytic asymmetric synthesis of an optically active compound of the formula (la) or (lb): wherein R is an organic group; X is halogen;  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  which may the same or different represents H, or an organic group or  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  may be bridged together forming part of a ring system; R and  $R_2$  may be bridged together forming part of a ring system; with the provisio that R and  $R_1$  are different and  $R_2$ , when different from H, is attached though a carbon-carbon bond, comprising the step of reacting a compound of the formula (2): with a halogenation agent in the presence of a catalytic amount of a chiral nitrogen containing organic compound.

